

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019; 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady	Councilman Michael Baker
Mayor Pro-Tem Emerson Hunt	Councilman Joseph Frazier
Councilman Ralph Atkinson	Councilwoman Tassie Lewis
Councilman Ronald Atkinson	

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator	James Brogdon, City Attorney
Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk	Tony Flowers, Chief of Police
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer	
Cliff Wilbanks, Recreation Director	

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Ashley Brady called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Denley Caughman led the Opening Prayer, and Mr. Alan Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS

Mayor Brady welcomed citizens, guests, and the press (Hometown TV 8).

4. **APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING April 9, 2019**

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 14, 2019. The motion carries unanimously.

5. **APRIL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

Randy Brown of the Public Works Department was named ***April Employee of the Month***. Mayor Ashley Brady thanked Randy Brown for all he does for the City and for doing a fantastic job. Mayor Brady states that he wish Randy could have been to the meeting but he had previous engagement.

6. **2ND READING ON ORDINANCE 19-01, AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AND ESTABLISH A STORMWATER UTILITY WITHIN THE CITY OF MARION.**

Mayor Brady explained per our previous conversation in the first reading on the Ordinance, to adopt and establish a Stormwater Utility fee. Mayor stated that with the fee in place it would help pay for Stormwater Vacuum truck. Mayor reiterated from last month that the fee includes residential water meter of five dollars, the commercial water meter six dollars and then we have an impact fee for residential 5,000 square feet or less two hundred and fifty dollars, construction 5,001 square feet or greater a thousand dollars. Mayor added the fee can only be used for the Stormwater fund balance which will be used for supplies, and the employees that will be working and using the Vacuum truck which was agreed upon last month.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to accept the second reading on Ordinance 19-01 to Adopt and Establish a Stormwater Utility with in the City of Marion, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson. The motion carries unanimously.

7. **1ST READING ON ORDINANCE 19-02, AN ORDINANCE TO SET MILLAGE FOR RAISING FUNDS AND TO ADOPT THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MARION, FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020**

Mayor introduced the first reading on the Ordinance 19-02 to set millage for raising funds and to adopt the budget for the City of Marion fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. *Mayor Pro Temp Emerson Hunt made a motion to accept first reading on Ordinance 19-02 to Set Millage for Raising Funds and to Adopt the Budget for the City of Marion fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.* The motion was carried unanimously.

8. **1ST READING ON ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE LOCAL HOSPITALITY REVENUE FOR THE CITY OF MARION FOR THE 2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR**

Mayor Brady introduced the reading on the Ordinance to appropriate Local Hospitality Revenue for the City of Marion for the 2019- 2020 fiscal year. *Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to accept the first reading on Ordinance to Appropriate Local Hospitality Revenue for the City of Marion for the 2019-2020 Fiscal year, seconded by Councilman Ralph Atkinson.* The motion was carried unanimously.

9. **1ST READING ON ORDINANCE 19-04, AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE STORMWATER UTILITY REVENUES FOR THE CITY OF MARION FOR THE 2019-20 FISCAL YEAR**

Mayor Ashley Brady introduced the reading on Ordinance 19-04 to Appropriate Stormwater Utility Revenues for the City of Marion for the 2019-2020 Fiscal year. Mayor mentioned that we will be having fees coming in from the Stormwater fee;

and estimating from the Stormwater fee, added to the water meters of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year in revenue. Mayor added that in the packets were expense's that were projected out for Stormwater maintenance which included salary, benefits package, gas and oil for the truck, maintenance repair, equipment for the truck, and the annual loan payment; lastly Mayor stated that we should have a little left over to cover for the pipes and stuff that we have to replace, and we will use that to do that. ***Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to Adopt first reading on Ordinance 19-04 to Appropriate Stormwater Utility Revenues for the City of Marion for the 2019-2020 Fiscal year, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson.*** The motion was carried unanimously.

10. SET DATE FOR BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mayor would like to set the date for the Budget Workshop for May 21, 2019 at five thirty.

11. SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mayor updated on the date set for the Public Hearing for the hospitality budget and the Stormwater budget for June 18th at five thirty or six whichever is best.

12. BID ON CAMERA AND NOZZLES FOR VACUUM TRUCK

Mayor stated that last month the bid was out for the Vacuum truck, but also need some additional cameras and nozzles so that the Vacuum truck works appropriately. Mayor made mention Councilman Ralph Atkinson recommended that we bring it back as a separate item to approve because it wasn't in the original motion. The camera and the nozzle that we would need for the Vacuum truck included in the packet was the cost factor for that. Mayor stated that we borrowed two hundred and fifty thousand on the truck and so we will have a little residual

on the truck after we pay for the truck so we are going to be about nine thousand dollars short. The Mayor's thoughts would be that the stormwater fee that we just approved we'd have contingency monies at about thirty nine thousand dollars and to finance it ourselves when the monies start coming in. Then we will use that monies to pay ourselves back. ***Councilman Ronald Atkinson made a motion to accept the bid on the camera and nozzle for the Vacuum Truck, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier.*** The motion was carried unanimously.

13. BIDS OF HVAC FOR DEPOT

Mayor mentioned that we had spoken on last month and approved some hospitality funds to take care of replacing the HVAC system at the Depo. The initial estimate was eighteen thousand and some change. Mayor reported that the HVAC system's been put out to bid on the South Carolina business opportunities on May 1, and ran it through May 13. We had a couple of people to inquire, but when it came time to open the bids we only had one bid turned in by Zemans, stated the Mayor. The bids were turned in on Monday says the Mayor confirming with Administrator. Mayor also stated that Zemans turned in a bid to replace the two AC units at the Depot and the bid price is one hundred eighteen thousand one hundred and sixty dollars. ***Councilman Ronald Atkinson made a motion to accept the bid for the Depot for eighteen thousand one hundred and sixty dollars, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt.*** The motion carried unanimously.

14. BIDS ON UTILITY TRUCKS

Mayor mentioned the bids for the utility trucks with the Public Works department being a need because the trucks that the guys are driving now are about wore out. He stated that they are looking at buying two long bed trucks and two short bed trucks. Mayor emphasized the total cost for these four trucks would be ninety eight thousand thirty six dollars. Mayor says that we have applied for a USDA grant and

we received forty nine thousand and eighteen dollars. In last year's budget on the hospitality budget we budgeted twenty six thousand dollars for a truck which we have not expensed yet. So if we take the ninety eight thousand dollars, less the forty nine thousand dollars from the USDA grant, less the twenty six thousand dollars already approved in the hospitality budget that will leave us about twenty three thousand eighteen dollars give or take. Mayor also stated that his thought process is that we are selling the piece of land out here to USDOT, and it's going to be about twenty five thousand in change. Mayor also stated to take that twenty five thousand in change and earmark to pay for the deficit and basically we are coming in with four new trucks. Mayor Ashley Brady stated even if we are twenty three short we have twenty five coming in from DOT and so we will basically have zero dollars coming in from our pocket. Mayor would like to see a motion to approve it but also include using that DOT monies as well. ***Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to purchase state contract, all four vehicles based on the utility trucks, and earmark money for the sale of the property twenty five thousand from DOT to offset, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier.***

15. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Recreation- Pilot Basketball Program Update

Administrator Alan Ammons mentioned that Reverend Benny Davis handed him a card earlier in the day for the Council meeting and Mr. Ammons wanted to make sure Mayor and Council got a copy of the card. He stated that Reverend Davis is very appreciative of the opportunity.

Weeds and Vegetation Update

Mr. Ammons stated that as we know it's that time of the year again and he had Pam to run him off some notes. He stated that as of today it looks like we have already sent out one hundred and sixty letters as of the night of the council meeting. He also stated that about eighty of them have been signed. Mr. Ammons

stated that they have not made it all the way around town but are getting there. He also stated that they are checking the record and making sure the time is up and Dennis and the bush hog operator and start cutting from area to area and the ones that are out of compliance and had not complied will be cut and charged back to the taxes. Mayor Brady interjected and mentioned that in the past we had to send out letters and wait so many days, and then a month later if it's out of compliance again we'd have to send you another letter wait the days and go cut it. Mayor stated that our Attorney has revised our letter and the letter is a onetime notice that if the yard is out of compliance for the whole season, with that one notice we wait that fifteen days, and if it's out of compliance three weeks from now we're going to cut that grass and we don't have to notify them again.

C. Miscellaneous

Mr. Ammons also mentioned the Needs Assessment that took place May 15, 2019 at 10:00a.m. Mr. Ammons stated that representatives from the Pee Dee Council Government were here and hopefully in the September or October cycle we can go after some funding to help demo some houses in the area. Mr. Ammons stated that this is the first step to go after the funding. Mr. Ammons reminded everyone about the foxtrot.

16. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney Brogdon has updated from the previous council meeting concerning the elections. Attorney has obtained a spreadsheet from the municipal association and it has been included in their packets. Attorney added that he thinks that half of municipalities are in November in odd years.

17. DENLEY CAUGHMAN – TOURISM

Mr. Caughman mentioned recently that some of the staff came together to revamp the first button on the City website. Mr. Caughman made mention before that was

done the first button on the City website was inviting people to visit Marion and when someone clicked on that button they got information regarding an event that had happened ten years ago. Mr. Caughman stated that it was sort of uninviting to come to Marion. He wants to report that the button has been beautifully redone. He then stated that the invitation has worked and people have come to Marion as a result of that. Last Friday a couple came from Georgetown to tour Marion and scheduled a two hour tour, Mr. Denley stated. Marion is the only town in this entire region that has a guided tour for visitors Mr. Denley stated. He also stated that Georgetown comes the closes by offering a video tour. Mr. Denley wants to say thanks for the upgrade.

18. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady reminded everyone that this is the big weekend it's the Foxtrot Festival. He announced that Friday night they had some activities going on for the children at the Opera House followed by our fantastic fireworks show that we always have at the Withlacoochee Park at 9:15 p.m. Mayor encouraged everyone to come out and support the Foxtrot committee and see the fireworks show and be with the children. Mayor informed everyone that Saturday morning was the big day that started off with the parade and the vendors and all the activities that they have on Main Street. Mayor stated the Police department, Recreation department, and Recreation department has a meeting Thursday morning about the logistics of what has to been done to help coordinate this event. Mayor stated that another item that we have coming up on May 31st the Airforce band will be here in Marion at 7 p.m. and will be performing at the Opera House. Mayor encouraged everyone to come out and support these young men. On June 21st The Chamber of Commerce and HMRA are going to have an event at the Marion Commons for Elvis Impersonator. The Mayor is encouraging everyone to come out to the event as well, he also mentioned that it is a free event.

Last month the Mayor informed us about a sink hole on Wilcox and Woodland Dr. He stated that DOT had gone and started doing some work on the very large sink hole and the local DOT had to stop because for one it was too deep and they had to have dig boxes from OSHA to get in there and work. The second thing Mayor Brady mentioned was that they could only extend up to thirty thousand dollars. Well the Mayor mentioned that the first repair estimate that they received for the repair of that sink hole was sixty thousand dollars, and so it's gone to Columbia and Senator Kent Williams has been spoken with and we are waiting on Columbia to ok the project and it will probably be over sixty thousand dollars to fix it. Mayor encouraged everyone to go and take a look at it there is some interesting architecture that took place in the thirties with a double brick storm drain system. We are staying in contact with Mr. Harold Coleman at DOT and trying to get it rectified because it could be a hazard the Mayor said. Mayor stated that we are doing a very good job on the land field. He mentioned Mr. Randy and Mr. Winky are working on that and hauling off the large stuff that DOT wants us to haul off. Mayor also mentioned in just this past week the wind row of mulch and trees is mostly compost but of course compost builds up heat and the guy took the track hoe and turned the piles to make it compost faster. Mayor stated it is interesting to see them turn the piles, but just last week the wind got up and we had a little spontaneous combustion so we had a little fire, and the rich organic material such as tree's, and leaves we can't put it out. Mayor mentioned that the fire is pretty much isolated in there and that it's not going to affect anything. Mayor mentioned that the FEMA reimbursements from Hurricane Florence are starting to trickle in. Mayor stated that the C-Fund Project on driveways and sidewalks are going to start on Park Avenue this week from what they told us. Mayor informed that a couple of things that he has done to promote the City of Marion is that during Hurricane Florence a TV station out of Columbia came in and did some interviews in Marion.

Mayor stated that they called him and they met at Catfish Creek, and the reason they met at Catfish Creek was to plead our flight for the need of funding for Catfish Creek, and Smith Swamp. Mayor also stated that the reporter shot some shots and sent us some videos of how it was. Mayor made mention that the reporters were actually here and they saw it for themselves. Mayor stated that hopefully someone will see it in Columbia and help us on that. Mayor informed everyone that he had the privilege last week while in Washington DC, with the work that he does in the insurance business. He stated that he did have a meeting and all the state representatives with the blessing of the group that he was with he said he has to take care of insurance stuff he has to pitch something for the City of Marion. Mayor also stated that he did have lunch with Senator Tim Scott and he had a great conversation with Senator Tim Scott as he plead our flight that we need funding for infrastructure, and disaster. Mayor stated that if you've ever met Senator Tim Scott he is a very cordial, very well spoken and nice guy. Mayor then stated that the next stop was Congressman Tom Rice's Office. Mayor reiterated that they took care of insurance and then talked about the needs for the City of Marion; Catfish Creek, Smith Swamp. Mayor also stated that he went to Lindsey Graham's Office. Mayor made mention that they were supposed to meet with him, but that particular day as soon as they walked in the door we seized a North Korean ship. Mayor stated that at the moment Lindsey Graham couldn't meet with them, however they did meet with his Chief staff. Mayor expressed to the staff that we needed help on the funding.

Councilman Michael Baker made mention to Mr. Caughman that he is a member of the St. John Church and that his family is one of the original founders of that church. Councilman Baker also stated that he would be glad to take the plea to them and willing to work with him on tourism.

Councilman Joseph Frazier stated that he doesn't see to many people out tonight. He expressed that he doesn't know what's going on, and he also stated that he's City Councilman again for the next four years, and Mayor Ashley Brady congratulated him.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson has a concern on North Main St. Councilman stated that there is a house that does not have a dumpster and is going through a remodel. He expressed that people are continuously coming to him and asking him about them having the City to pick up stuff. He also stated that normally when construction is going on like that they have a dumpster. Mr. Ammons interjected that he will check on it. Mr. Ammons added that they have had a container at one time. Councilman Ronald points out that the other week they had commodes and today they have all kind of lumber.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no comment at the time.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis stated that there is an Anti-Bullying Rally that will be held on June 1 at the Shannon Wilkerson Gym and she stated that it is important that we encourage all of our youth to come out. She also stated that it is unfortunate that it will take place in all of our lives at one point or another. Councilwoman Tassie also stated that it is important that we get the message out early and she believes in being proactive. Councilwoman also stated that she will be the guest speaker for that event, and looks forward to seeing you guys there.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson hunt has no comment at this time.

19. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Contractual Matter – City Building.

20. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

Returning from Executive Session Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to return to Regular Session, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to allow the Mayor to negotiate with Ms. Justina Roberts and the Queen Bee Ellen Baldwin for the summer feeding programs and the basketball program, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson. The motion carried unanimously.

21. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, *Councilman Ronald Atkinson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker.* The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ashley Brady

Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk
Taped: May 14, 2019